

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Vietmannsdorf Airfield	DATE DISTR.	1 July 1954
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. General:

- a. Work has been concentrated on the construction of a new series of hard-stands in the southeast corner of the airfield and on the clearing of a vast track, 2½ km. long, southwards from the southwest corner of the runway.
- b. On 22 April 1954, the Soviet construction staff (Soviet Army pool of engineers and heavy equipment used to supplement German Bau Unions) commenced preparing for their departure from the site on 28 April 1954. All mixers, electric locomotives and other heavy machinery which the Russians had brought to the airfield to supplement the equipment used by the Bau Union Brandenburg is being cleaned, greased, and packed ready for transit. When these items have left the airfield, only about half the heavy equipment previously available on the project will remain.
- c. Nothing has been stated, either officially or unofficially, about dismissing any of the workers employed on the project, and it is believed locally that no more than a change in the Soviet building staff is being made. A senior Soviet engineer visiting the site is alleged to have told a senior German overseer that the Soviet building staff was destined to be transferred to China.
- d. The present number of German employees working on this project is 1,300, all members of the Bau Union Brandenburg.

2. Construction:

A new series of concrete hard-stands with an overall measurement of 525 by 145 meters has been constructed in the extreme southeast corner of the airfield, immediately adjoining the southern taxi-track (see sketch).

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A series of six dumbbell-shaped clearings have been marked out and filled with sand; the remaining surrounding portions have been concreted to a depth of 38 cm. Powerful electric lamps have been set up around the site to permit work to be carried on by three shifts working throughout the entire 24 hours.

3. Runway Repairs:

On 24 March, an assessment was made of the state of the concrete used in the laying of the runway and the taxi-tracks. A work program for the repair of 15,000 holes of up to three centimeters diameter has been set up. The damaged areas consist of small holes or of blister-like projections caused by mixture of the concrete with impure sand and lime crumbings. The holes are of two types: white ones caused by cement lumps, and yellow ones caused by clay mixed with sand, which had been obtained locally on the site. These holes did not commence appearing until after the severe winter frosts, and more holes and damage have been discovered since the commencement of the repair work on the runway. Each hole is hollowed out to a diameter of four centimeters, and every workman has the quota of chiseling five holes per hour.

4. New Clearings:

- a. A new area, 150 meters in width, is being cleared from the southwest corner of the lower taxi-track southwards in the direction of Klein-Doelln. This clearing is at present $2 \frac{3}{4}$ km. in length and passes through Jagens 165, 166, 131, 100 and 101, ending at the intersection of Jagens 100, 101, 71 and 72, 100 meters north of the footpath from Grossvaeter to Klein-Doelln. Within the cleared area, a wide strip is being excavated to a depth of about 75 centimeters, the earth and debris being removed by a light-gauge-railway system and dispersed among the surrounding woodlands. A number of large electric lamps mounted on 20-meter - high wooden poles have been set up along each side of the clearings; they extend at present southwards for approximately $1 \frac{1}{2}$ km.
 - b. Three large concrete mixers have been set up at the southern end of the clearing in Jagens 101, and two further large concrete mixers are situated approximately in the center of Jagens 131. Further heavy equipment is being set up at the extreme northern end of this project.
5. The Soviet recreation halls situated on the main built-up domestic site, has been almost completed and final painting is in progress. The hall is constructed of brick and wood, measures 50 by 15 meters, and has seating facilities for 400 personnel. It is scheduled for inauguration on 1 May 1954.

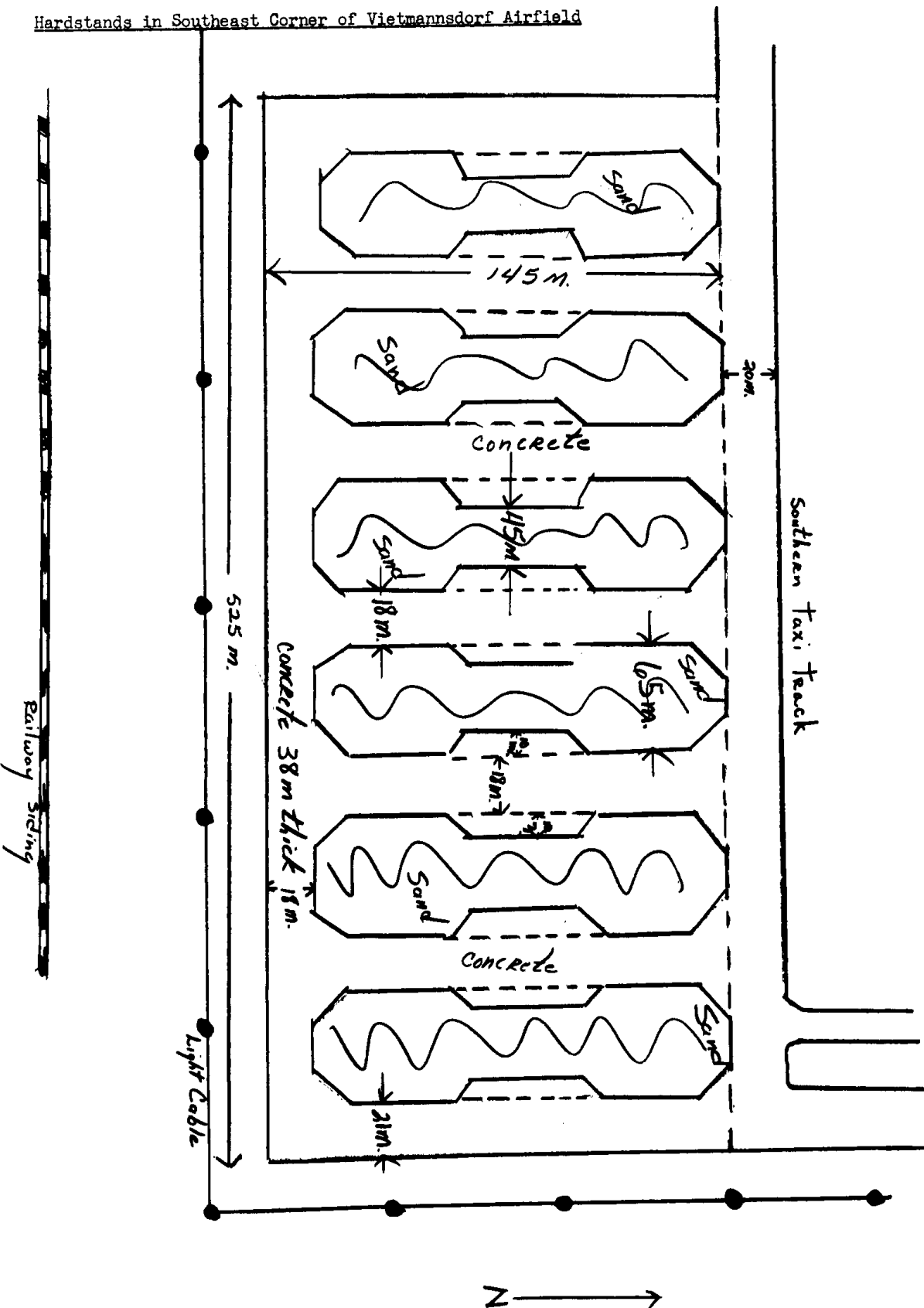
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Hardstands in Southeast Corner of Vietmannsdorf Airfield



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